

Chapter Twenty-four

INDUSTRY AND TRADE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

39. If "industry" be taken to include all activities connected with
 438 processing, then there is more industry in Southeast Asia than
 25 appears at first glance, though not much manufacturing in
 mechanised factories may be found. The territory is, however,
 overwhelmingly agricultural and in almost every part of the
 region it is subsistence agriculture which employs and sustains
 the largest number of people. Much manual processing is done
 by these subsistence agriculturists on their own little farms to
 prepare their production for their family consumption.

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

286 The tradition of being self-supporting in each territory, the
 438 national counterpart of individual subsistence farming, is very
 472 strong even today, finding expression in the widespread cottage
 industry of weaving and in that Southeast Asia custom of making
 a single length of span-broad, hand-made cloth the basis of a
 skirt-like dress—the *sarong*, *lungyi*, *panung* and so on. Today
 this domestic weaving, where it has managed to persist in spite
 of competition from cheap imported cloths, uses imported cotton
 yarn, although parts of Burma still weave homegrown silk, and
 Siam and Indochina continue home-weaving on the basis of Indo-
 chinese silk. Only in Java has the "cottage industry" become
 elaborated into a village factory industry for a more intensified
 and commercialised production of sarongs. Ninety-two per cent
 of Java's *batik sarongs* (printed cotton skirts worn by men and
 women alike) come from factories of less than 80 workers each;
 this specialised process of dyeing in patterns defined by wax is
 now done by the small factory working upon imported cotton
 cloth.

385 The other considerable domestic industry deriving from the
 415 subsistence tradition is that of making innumerable varieties of
 articles from plaited palm leaves. Containers of many sorts, hats,
 domestic utensils, house walls, mats, fish traps and agricultural